

FAMILY VIOLENCE WAIVER OPTION

7.36

The Family Violence Waiver Option stops the MFIP 60-month time clock. Participants who have been determined eligible for the Family Violence Waiver are also considered to meet the eligibility criteria for Family Stabilization Services. To qualify, the participant must take the following steps:

1. Request a Family Violence Waiver.**- Financial Worker Responsibility**

If a participant reveals to the financial worker that he/she is a victim of family violence and requests a Family Violence Waiver, the financial worker must identify the participant (with the participant's written permission) as someone needing help or assistance to develop an Employment Plan for Victims of Family Violence. For procedures on developing the plan, see §7.12 (Plan for Victims of Family Violence). The financial worker must ensure that the participant **has** access to a person trained in domestic violence. See §7.36.3 (Person Trained in Domestic Violence).

- Job Counselor Responsibility

If a participant reveals to the job counselor that she/he is a victim of family violence and requests a Family Violence Waiver, the job counselor must refer the participant to a person trained in domestic violence if the participant is not already working with a domestic violence advocate. The job counselor must ensure **that** the participant has access to a person trained in domestic violence. The job counselor, in collaboration with the person trained in domestic violence, must assist the client in developing an Employment Plan. See §7.12 (Plan for Victims of Family Violence).

Once the plan has been approved, inform the financial worker. Financial workers must enter an approved Family Violence Waiver in MAXIS.

2. Provide Documentation of Family Violence.

The financial worker or job counselor must advise the participant about documentation required to substantiate a claim of family violence. Refer to the list below for acceptable documentation. The county must assist the client if she/he has difficulty in securing any of these items. The client may also be referred to a domestic violence advocate or legal services for assistance. **DO NOT** require the participant to comply with regular Employment Services

activities or impose an ES sanction during the period of time that a participant is obtaining documentation.

Consider any 1 of the following items as an acceptable verification of family violence:

- Police, government agency, or court records.

OR

- Statement from a battered women's shelter staff person or a sexual assault or domestic violence advocate with knowledge of the circumstances.

OR

- Statement from a professional from whom the client has sought assistance about the abuse.

OR

- Sworn statement from the participant.

OR

- Sworn statement from any other person with knowledge of the circumstance.

NOTE: A notarized statement is recommended from the participant and other person with knowledge of the circumstances, but it is not required. A sworn statement is needed at the minimum. For the definition of a sworn statement see, §3.39 (Glossary: S...).